

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

HICKORY, N. C.

September 25, 1915.

CONCERNING TAXES.

Until it seems the reasons put forth by the corporation commission in its order declining to reduce the assessment of real property in Catawba and other counties, the Record will not feel disposed to comment. It has been of the opinion that the commission was endeavoring to do its duty, and the Record has watched and waited. We note that quite a few people think the Mecklenburg increase was right and proper, and doubtless an equally large number are of the opinion that the advance in Catawba was not unreasonable.

As for the report that the commission telegraphed about increasing the assessment to 20 per cent in this county, the Record feels sure that it was somewhat garbled in the transmission. That would not have been the proper sort of telegram, in the first place, and could have accomplished no good purpose, in the second place. What the commission is endeavoring to do, we have assumed all along, it is to equalize taxes as much as possible. The members have no desire to make enemies by unnecessary acts.

The remedy for those counties which have had their assessments increased in a lower tax rate. It is a simple thing to reduce the rate, as was done by the Hickory city council, and at the same time to collect as much for the expense of government.

By reducing the rate the small property-owner, who usually pays his share of the taxes, will get off a little easier, while the larger property-owner will pay practically the same. A low tax rate certainly is to the advantage of the majority of the people.

REUNION IN WASHINGTON.

The 4th annual reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic in Washington next week will be an occasion well worth reading about. Gathered in the national capital will be the remnants of that once formidable host—and it was formidable or else it never would have succeeded in forcing Lee to surrender his tired handful of veterans at Appomattox in April, 1865. The line has thinned since September, 1865, when President Johnson reviewed the triumphant hosts, and the veterans will live not in tents, but in the old census building.

Many things have happened since the first Grand Army parade. The fire-eaters occupied the big tent for a while, but soon they were forced into the side show and now they are in the museum—curiosities, freaks and monstrosities—where they belong. We have heard of invitations extended by the Grand Army to the United Confederate Veterans and in 1913 was witnessed a joint encampment on the field of Gettysburg, where Lee and Meade fought the decisive battle of the war. What is more, the veterans enjoyed themselves heartily on that occasion, despite the intense heat. Time had cooled the fire that in them had burned.

We are now beholding a president of southern birth occupying the white house, a Confederate veteran sitting as chief justice of the highest court in the land, and we are not beholding any compliments. Instead the country is rather grateful that it has Mr. Wilson in the white house.

FALSE PROPHETS SQUELCHED.

With cotton selling around eleven cents and quoted for future delivery at twelve cents, where are those pessimistic boys who saw calamity falling upon the south in great piles? Where is Hoke Smith now? Where are those brave lads who wanted to rear up and smite Great Britain a few weeks ago? To be frank about it, they probably are telling their constituents that their protests against the English policy of making cotton contraband have resulted in giving the farmers a living price.

Our friend the Newton Enterprise gave some level-headed advice about the time there was agitation to cut off supplies to the entente allies in retaliation for placing cotton on the contraband list. The Enterprise was aware that Austria and Germany consumed only a small part of American cotton, and it was quick to realize that the south faced a far greater disaster if the extremists should be permitted to drive the American government to action. It would have meant loss all

round—and the south would have been the goat.

Apparently the farmer did not listen to the false prophets, but sat steady in the boat. Cotton has gone higher day by day, and it seems that the high water mark has not been reached. Probably more cotton is being used in the manufacture of explosives than has been realized, but the best reason for the advance may be found in the fact that American mills are consuming the raw product. The wheels are humming and prosperity is here.

The Observer says that a member of the Charlotte delegation which went to Raleigh to protest over the increase in the assessment of Mecklenburg county reports that the corporation commission was set and ready for the fray. The commission had definite concrete data on its side, while the protestants had generalities. The Mecklenburg lands are assessed lower than in adjoining counties or townships, and the Charlotte men had nothing to say.

The address of President Fette on "Twenty-five Years of Lenon College," published yesterday, was interesting and inspiring. It gave us a glimpse of some of the difficulties the pioneers encountered in establishing this good college, and also gave us a vision of the greater future. The article was well worth the attention of Record readers.

Representative Doughton is quoted as opposing a big army and navy, and is not in favor of tinkering much with the tariff. If the Ashe gentleman should decide to change his mind on any of these little matters, he can do so without straining much. Big and much are susceptible of almost any sort of interpretation.

It seems right to us that our foreign friends like Caruso and others should pay the federal income tax, and the ruling by the treasury department ought not to worry many folks.

It is a fact that knitting mills in this section have more orders on hand than they can fill in several months. Most of them have no reason to complain.

Most of the papers are discussing the game of football. It probably has its drawbacks, but they are not as good as some full backs. Help!

With warehouse and banking facilities aplenty, Hickory should attract a lot of cotton that will not be sold for eleven cents.

Senator Hoke Smith may sell all his cotton to the Germans for 16 cents, delivered at Bremen. Go to it, Hoke.

PRESS COMMENT

Cheese Factories.

Alleghany Star.
Watauga has a cheese factory at Cove creek and Ashe at Grass creek. Both of these are co-operative and a movement is on foot to organize more of them. Government experts claim that Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga are far ahead of any of the western cheese districts in advantages, and the product of the factories established are far superior to that of the western factories. The government experts' idea is that a factory shall be located about every four miles, thus making it an easier matter to gather the milk.

A Considerate Judge.

Winston-Salem Journal.
Judge Cooke was altogether considerate of the happiness of the unfortunate fellows when he refrained from sentencing those Wake county negroes to terms on the roads which would have ended through Christmas and watermelon time, too. Still, he might as well have sent 'em up for a year and been done with it, for what does a sugar cane for the rest of the year if he's got to dig away on the dusty road all day and be chained in the bed all night during 'possum and 'tater and 'summon beer time?

Canada's Big Army.

High Point Enterprise.
The Dominion of Canada expects soon to have—for her—an unprecedentedly large number of men under arms. The number of armed troops in round figures will be somewhat over 200,000. When 12 battalions recently authorized reach England there will be, roughly estimated, 100,000 Canadians in Europe, besides the 50,000 in training in the Dominion, 10,000 in the home garrisons and 1,500 elsewhere. It is now planned to issue in a week or two a call for 50,000 more volunteers, which will make a total of 211,500 men in uniform. Upwards of 60,000 Canadians have crossed into France and Flanders, and it is estimated that the total Canadian casualties are about 15,000. The British dependence to the north of us is holding up her end in the gigantic struggle in which the mother country is engaged.

Where Extremes Meet in Criticism.

Springfield Republican.
The current criticism of the president of the United States that is nearest to ripe wisdom and absolutely correct effect comes from two dissimilar and widely separated sources. On the one side is the extreme pro-German press, with whose shafts the country is familiar. The Milwaukee Free Press, controlled by Milwaukee German-Americans, denounces the president's entire course and threatens Mr. Wilson with political annihilation. But, more threatening still, it says: "Unless the self-sufficient provincial in the white house wakes up one of these fine mornings to the realization that he is more than a president of our Anglomaniacs, that he is in reality a president of the American people, he will live to discover a situation in this country that will make him go down in American history as the arch-disrupter of the noblest nation that was ever given

a glorious opportunity on the footstool of the universe.

Another pro-German publication, which has achieved a peculiar notoriety, brings the crime of murder home to our administration. In a furious outburst in defense of Dr. Dumbba, this religious patriotic publication informs its readers that "the most depraved of Dr. Dumbba was technical merely. His real object was to save his countrymen from treason and fratricide. The Borgias practiced murder as a fine art. We have established murder as a legitimate industry. Not content with that noble achievement, our state department attempts to make fratricide compulsory."

Yet these journals are easily outdone. How interesting to observe that the New York Tribune does the trick of surpassing them in serene malignity. Of the Lusitania victims it declares:

"Their deaths are just as chargeable to the Wilson administration as the deaths of those American boys who wore our uniforms and went to Vera Cruz in obedience to executive order. The Lusitania victims were sacrificed because the administration, of course, which did not mean and had let the German government know that it did not mean what it had said."

Thus the sweet-tempered conclusion is reached that the president of the United States is a faithless hypocrite. He is also a murderer; of course, the New York Tribune believes that, for it believes that the sinking of the Lusitania was murder.

The New York paper is going some. Horace Greeley, who founded it, spent a good part of the four years of the Civil war viciously snapping at Abraham Lincoln and assailing him for alleged crimes and misdemeanors. But he never placed the responsibility for wholesale murder on Lincoln's bent shoulders nor berated him as a contemptible hypocrite when brewing a massacre.

Another pro-German press and the Tribune sort deserve jubilant congratulations. They have met at last on common ground. Joy to them!

His Redeeming Trait.

Chicago Herald.
A young man was sitting in a barber shop looking at a magazine when an old farmer, with a little knowledge or appreciation of literary people, stepped up behind his chair and looked over his shoulder.

"Who's them?" he inquired, pointing to a group of portraits.
"Well-known authors and playwrights," was the reply.
"Humph!" ejaculated the farmer, contemptuously. "Just writin' fellers." Then he caught sight of an author with a long, solemn face, and his eyes sparkled. "That's the one I like," he said with decision, putting his finger on the writer's rural countenance.
"Oh, yes; nearly every one likes him," agreed the young man. His humorous writings are—
"Don't know nothing about his writin', but I like his face."

"Why so?"
"Cause he's the only fellow that looks like he was sorry for what he'd done."

Since July 1st there have been licensed by the secretary of state 2,800 new automobiles in this state. Estimated at an average of \$900 each, which is considered conservative, this represents \$1,680,000 invested in automobiles within less than three months.

Like Old Friends.

At a dinner and theatre party recently given in Washington a beautiful debutante was frightened beyond measure because Senator Blank had been selected for her escort, says Everybody's Magazine. The poor girl was almost in tears from nervousness.

"But mother," she protested, "what ever can I talk to him about?"

The mother smiled. "You'll like him, dear; every one does."
It was late that night when the debutante came running into her mother's boudoir, a happy flush on her young cheek. "I've had a perfectly dandy time," she announced, "and I think the Senator's fine. He isn't at all what I expected him to be. Why, we hadn't gone two blocks before we were talking about ideas in Italian hotels."

Sold Again.

It was a butcher shop with a fine display of tongues for sale, according to the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Suddenly a man rushed in. "I say," he gasped, "there's a big black dog running down the street with a tongue in its mouth."

"Is there? The beast!" shouted the butcher, seizing a chopper and rushing out of the shop after the canine thief. He caught a glimpse of a dog answering the description at the street corner and gave chase, but after rare dodging and twisting he lost sight of the animal.

"Have you seen a big black dog with a tongue in its mouth?" he asked of a group of loiterers.

"With a tongue in its mouth?" said one, laughing. "Did you ever see one without?"

"Sold!" muttered the butcher, when he returned and found that all his tongues had gone as well as the two thieves who had taken them.

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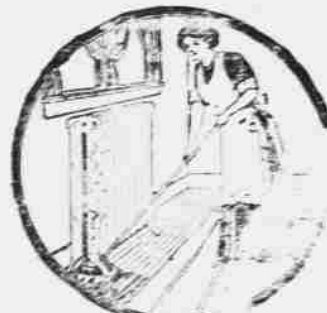
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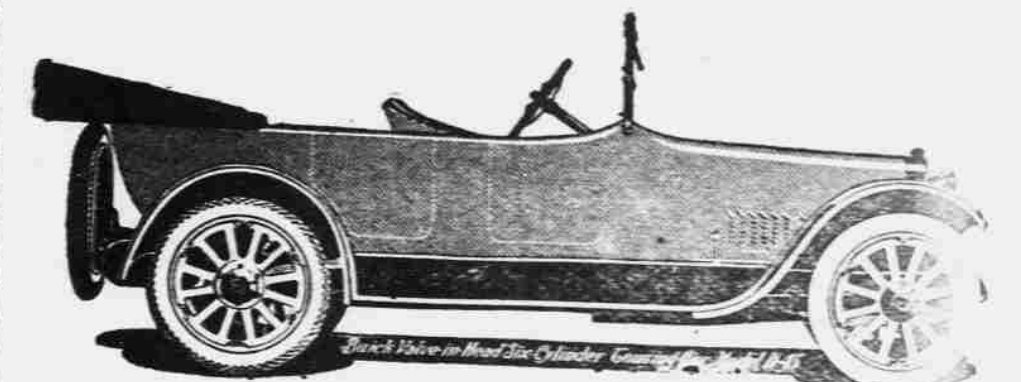
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